**Physical examination:** locations of pain, hyperthermia, swelling, tenderness of palpation, limited range of motion

+ **Patient history:** cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic diseases, immunosuppressive drugs

+ **Basic diagnostic:** WBC, CRP, x-ray, vital parameters

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**Suspected monofocal joint infection**

- Puncture of the joint
- Near-term surgical therapy
- Antibiotics after obtaining tissue samples

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**Suspected multifocal infection of musculoskeletal system**

- Pt. not in a septic condition and no neurological deficit:
  - Local MRI of involved regions, if suspected involvement of the spine: total spine MRI, puncture of involved joints, blood culture
  - Near-term surgical therapy
  - Antibiotics after obtaining tissue samples

- Pt. in a septic condition
  - Pain on spine with/without neurological deficit: total spine MRI and surgical therapy of all infected segments in a timely one-stage procedure and surgical therapy of all other inflammatory foci (clinical indication)
  - Blood culture, PCT
  - Obtaining tissue samples
  - Starting antibiotic therapy after surgical therapy